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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FEE TRANSMITTAL		COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
		Application Number	
		Filing Date	
		First Named Inventor William E. Chambers, Sr.	
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Total Amount of Payment (\$ 513.00)		Attorney Docket Number 623-00027	
METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)		FEE CALCULATION (continued)	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to: Deposit Account Number 01.2000 Deposit Account Name ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 <input type="checkbox"/> Charge the Issue Fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance, 37 CFR 1.311(b)		3. ADDITIONAL FEES Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	
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Description		Fee Paid	
101 770 201 385 Utility filing fee		385	
106 320 206 160 Design filing fee			
107 530 207 265 Plant filing fee			
108 770 208 385 Reissue filing fee			
114 150 214 75 Provisional filing fee			
SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ 385.00)			
2. CLAIMS			
Extra Fee from Fee Paid			
Total claims 28-20= 8 X 11 = 88			
Independent 4- 3= 1 X 40 = 40			
Claims			
Multiple Dependent X =			
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Entity Fee Code (\$)			
Description			
103 22 203 11 Claims in excess of 20			
102 80 202 40 Independent claims in excess of 3			
104 260 204 130 Multiple dependent claim			
109 80 209 40 Reissue independent claims over original patent			
110 22 210 11 Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent			
SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ 128.00)			
SUBMITTED BY		Complete (if applicable)	
Typed or printed name Andrew S. McConnell		Registration Number 32,272	
Signature <i>Andrew S. McConnell</i> Date 2/3/97		Deposit Account User ID	



02/03/98

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month		116	390	216	195	Extension for response within second month		117	930	217	465	Extension for response within third month		118	1,470	218	735	Extension for response within fourth month		119	300	219	150	Notice of appeal		120	300	220	150	Filing a brief in support of an appeal		121	260	221	130	Request for oral hearing		138	1,470	138	1,470	Petition to institute a public use proceeding		140	110	240	55	Petition to revive unavoidably abandoned application		141	1,290	241	645	Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application		142	1,290	242	645	Utility issue fee (or reissue)		143	440	243	220	Design issue fee		144	650	244	325	Plant issue fee		122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner		123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications		126	230	126	230	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt.		581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)		146	770	246	385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 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08794332-00097

ARTIFICIAL BAIT STRUCTURE
Inventor: William E. Chambers, Sr.

ARTIFICIAL BAIT STRUCTURE

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a fishing lure, and more particularly to a fishing lure which acts to simulate live bait movement.

5 Common jig-type fishing lures include a fish hook having a mass of material, usually metal, formed around the end of the hook opposite the barb to create a jighead. An attachment eye is attached to and extends outwardly from the jighead to provide a point of connection to a fishing line. The jighead is often painted a bright color to attract the attention of a fish.

10 Typically, a fisherman attaches bait such as minnow, pork rind, or a plastic rubber worm, to the hook. When a conventional fishing jig, as described, is cast out and reeled in, the configuration of the jighead creates several drawbacks. First, since jigheads are typically uniform in shape and somewhat streamlined, the fishing jig tends to travel through the water in a straight path, drawing the bait similarly through
15 the water in a straight path. Such straight line movement of the bait through the water does not typically attract fish.

In order to alleviate this problem, a live minnow is often attached to the fishing jig, such that the swimming movement of the minnow will attract fish. However, after being cast out and reeled in repeatedly, the minnow tires and tends to be drawn
20 through the water in a straight path, defeating the original purpose for using the live bait. Further, the constant replacement of the minnow on the fishing jig can be troublesome and expensive.

As an alternative to the use of a live minnow, many attempts have been made to provide fishing jigs and/or artificial bait which simulate live bait movement. The
25 most common attempt includes a mechanism, such as a fin, which causes the lure to wobble when the lure is pulled through the water by a fishing line. However, these types of lures are generally large in size and costly to manufacture.

A second drawback of using a fishing jig relates to the weight of a conventional fishing jig. Jigheads are typically made of metal, and hence normally sink and travel
30 near the bottom of the lake or river where the exposed hook can be easily entangled in the weeds. It is well known in the fishing industry to render a hook weedless by providing a series of reedlike deflectors that originate from the shank of the hook and extend to a point near the barb of the hook. To be effective, the weed deflector must be stiff enough to deflect the weed so that it will not contact and become entangled in

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the hook, while not being too stiff to interfere with the setting of the hook in the mouth of the fish. As with fishing lures which have attempted to simulate live bait movement, these modifications to the hook may be difficult and costly to manufacture.

Therefore, it is a primary object and feature of the present invention to provide an artificial bait structure for use with a conventional fishing jig which is simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

It is a further object and feature of the present invention to provide an artificial bait structure which simulates live bait movement and which discourages the entanglement of the fishing hook in weeds.

In accordance with the present invention, an artificial bait structure includes a head having a first forward end and a second rearward end. First and second generally flat fins or legs project rearwardly from the rearward end of the head along a longitudinal axis. Each leg is defined by a first inner edge and a second outer edge, and terminates at a rearward end. A projection extends rearwardly from the rearward end of each leg.

A rib extends along the outer edge of each leg between the head and the rearward end of the corresponding leg. In addition, protrusions or nipples project from the topside of the head and both sides of the each leg. The ribs and the nipples add surface area to the artificial bait structure, which, in turn, causes the legs to flutter so as to simulate the movement of live bait. Further, the generally flat surface area of the legs urges the artificial bait structure, and hence the fishing jig, upwardly when the artificial bait structure is drawn through the water keeping the fishing jig and the artificial bait out of weeds on the bottom of a lake or a river.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The drawings furnished herewith illustrate the best mode of the present invention in which the above advantages and features are clearly understood from the following description of the illustrated embodiment.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of the artificial bait structure of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a front elevational view of the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a rear elevational view of the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a side elevational view of the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1 mounted onto a fishing jig;

Fig. 8 is a side elevational view showing the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1 in a plurality of positions, in phantom, simulating live bait movement;

5 Fig. 9 is a bottom plan view showing the artificial bait structure of Fig. 1 in a plurality of positions, in phantom, simulating live bait movement; and

Fig. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the artificial bait structure of Fig. 7 taken along line 10-10.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

10 Referring to Figs. 1-6, the artificial bait structure of the present invention is generally designated by the reference numeral 10. The artificial bait structure 10 extends along a longitudinal front-rear axis and includes a head 12 having a first forward end 14 and a second rearward end 16. Head 12 further includes a generally planar lower surface 18 and a generally planar upper surface 20, which is integral and continuous with upper surfaces 22 and 24 defined by legs 26 and 28, respectively, as hereinafter described. Head 12 is defined by a U-shaped outer edge 30 which includes a first upper portion 32 perpendicular to the upper surface 20 of head 12, and a tapered or chamfered lower portion 34 which facilitates the removal of artificial bait structure 10 from a mold, as is known.

20 As previously described, artificial bait structure 10 includes first and second generally flat fins or legs 26, 28, respectively, projecting rearwardly from the rearward end 16 of head 12. Legs 26 and 28 define arcuate, convex outer edges 36 and 38, respectively, which extend between the rearward end 16 of head 12, and rearward ends 40, 42 defined by legs 26 and 28, respectively. Flexible projections 35 and 37 extend from rearward ends 40 and 42, respectively, and are offset in an inward direction from the longitudinal axis of legs 26 and 28, respectively. Artificial bait structure 10 further includes a joined portion 48 located immediately rearwardly of head 12 wherein a forward portion of legs 26 and 28 are joined to each other.

30 Legs 26 and 28 define inner edges 44 and 46, respectively, which extend from the joined portion 48 of the artificial bait structure 10, to the corresponding rearward end 40 and 42 of legs 26 and 28, respectively. Inner edges 44 and 46 include a first rearward linear portion 50 and 52, respectively, and a second forward concave portion 54 and 56, respectively, which curves outwardly toward corresponding outer edges 36 and 38 of legs 26 and 28, respectively. Concave portions 54 and 56

together define a generally elliptical opening in bait structure 10, and linear portions 50 and 52 define a rearwardly divergent gap between legs 26 and 28 extending between the elliptical opening and the rearward end of bait structure 10.

Upper surfaces 22 and 24 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, and the upper surface 20 of head 12, include a plurality of upwardly extending projections or nipples 58 which are arranged in parallel, spaced rows 60a-n. Rows 60a-n extend in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of artificial bait structure 10. In the preferred embodiment, each nipple 58 is generally cylindrical in shape. However, it is contemplated as being within the scope of the present invention to provide nipples 58 with any other satisfactory shape, such as a semi-spherical shape. Nipples 58 are provided in order to increase the surface area of the upper surface 20 of head 12 and the surface area of the upper surfaces 22 and 24 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, for reasons hereinafter described.

Legs 26 and 28 further include second, generally planar, bottom surfaces 62 and 64, respectively. Bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, also includes a plurality of downwardly extending projections or nipples 66 arranged in parallel, spaced rows 68a-h. Rows 68a-h extend in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of artificial bait structure 10. In the preferred embodiment, each nipple 66 is generally cylindrical in shape. However, it is contemplated as being within the scope of the present invention to provide nipples 66 with any other satisfactory shape, such as a semi-spherical shape. As with nipples 58, nipples 66 are provided on bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, in order to increase the surface area of the bottom surfaces 62 and 64, for reasons hereinafter described.

Bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, include outer ribs 70 and 72, respectively, which depend downwardly from the outer edges 36 and 38 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, and which extend between head 12 and rearward ends 40 and 42 of legs 26 and 28, respectively. Each rib 70 and 72 provides a certain amount of stiffness to the outer edge of its respective leg relative to the thin inner portion of the leg, and also increases the surface area to the bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively. Ribs 70 and 72 also function to direct water toward the bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, as artificial bait structure 10 is drawn through the water. By directing water toward the bottom

surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, artificial bait structure 10 is urged upwardly in the water.

Referring to Figs. 2, 4 and 7-8, the joined portion 48 of artificial bait structure 10, is generally planar and is interconnected to head 12 by a thickened portion 76 which strengthens the connection of legs 26 and 28 to head 12. Thickened portion 76 also directs water toward the bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, as artificial bait structure 10 is drawn through the water so as to urge the artificial bait structure 10 upwardly in the water.

Referring to Fig. 7, a fishing jig for use with the present invention is generally designated by the reference numeral 80. As illustrated, fishing jig 80 is generally comprised of a molded head 82, a hook member 84, and an attachment eye 86. Hook member 84 includes a generally straight shank 88 which projects rearwardly along an axis from the tail end of molded head 82. Shank 88 extends rearwardly until it is bent upward to create a curved section 90. Curved section 90 forms a generally semi-cylindrical configuration and is joined to a tail section 92 that extends forward and generally parallel to shank 88. In a preferred embodiment, the tail section 92 terminates at a barb 94. As is known, barb 94 is placed on tail section 92 to securely hold hook 84 in the mouth of the fish and prevent removal therefrom.

Molded head 82 includes a body 96 which is generally spherical in shape. As seen in Fig. 7, shank 88 of hook member 84 is joined to spherical body 96 at approximately the spherical equator of body 96. Also joined to the spherical body 96 is attachment eye 86. The attachment eye 86 defines an opening 98 therethrough in which a fishing line 100 is attached.

Attachment eye 86 is generally positioned along an axis passing through the center of spherical body 96. The attachment eye 86 can be attached to spherical body 96 by any conventional means such as welding, or preferably, the attachment eye 86 can be formed at the end of shank 88, which may extend through molded head 82. As such, a portion of shank 88 containing attachment eye 86 protrudes from molded head 82 such that attachment eye 86 is securely mounted to spherical body 96, as is shown.

In operation, fishing line 100 extends through opening 98 in attachment eye 86 and a knot 102 is formed in fishing line 100 so as to interconnect fishing line 100 with fishing jig 80. Tail section 92 of hook member 84 is inserted through the head 12 of artificial bait structure 10 such that head 12 is captured on hook member 84, as

shown in Fig. 7. Head 12 is partially received on shank 88 and on curved section 90 such that barb 94 of hook member 84 is spaced from the upper surface 20 of head 12, so as not to interfere with the setting of hook member 84 in the mouth of a fish.

As is conventional, a fisherman casts fishing line 100 and hence fishing jig 80 and artificial bait structure 10 attached thereto, into the water and allows fishing jig 80 and artificial bait structure 10 to partially sink toward the bottom of the lake or river. Once fishing jig 80 and artificial bait structure 10 has reached a predetermined depth, the fisherman begins to reel in the fishing line 100. As the fisherman begins to reel in the fishing line 100, tension is placed on the fishing line 100 and causes fishing jig 80 and artificial bait structure 10 to assume their operative position of Fig. 7.

As fishing line 100 is reeled in by the fisherman, the fishing jig 80 and the artificial bait structure 10 travel forwardly through the water. As water strikes upper and lower portions 32 and 34, respectively of head outer edge 30, together with upper surface 20 and lower surface 18 of head 12, turbulence is created in the water. The agitated water strikes upper surfaces 22 and 24 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, and bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, such that the legs 26 and 28 begin to flap or flutter upwardly and downwardly in the water, as shown in phantom in Fig. 8. As the water flows horizontally across upper surfaces 22 and 24 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, and bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, the water engages nipples 58 on leg upper surfaces 22 and 24 and engages nipples 66 projecting from leg bottom surfaces 62 and 64. Such contact of the water with nipples 58 and 66 functions to increase and enhance turbulence of the water, thus facilitating and enhancing the fluttering effect. In addition, the agitated water strikes flexible projections 35 and 37 extending from rearward ends 40 and 42, respectively, of legs 26 and 28, respectively. Such contact of the water with flexible projections 35 and 37 also further facilitates the fluttering effect and causes twisting action of legs 26 and 28 relative to their respective longitudinal axes.

In addition, as the artificial bait structure 10 is drawn through the water, ribs 70 and 72 extending adjacent to the outer edges 36 and 38 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, and thickened portion 76 of artificial bait structure 10, function to cup the water flowing therepast, so as to urge the water into the gap between the linear inner edge portions 50 and 52 of legs 26 and 28, respectively. By urging the water between the linear inner edge portions 50 and 52 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, the water separates legs 26 and 28, as shown in phantom in Fig. 9.

With legs 26 and 28 separated, the cupping effect caused by ribs 70 and 72 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, and thickened portion 76, dissipates. Consequently, the water engages outer edges 36 and 38, and ribs 70 and 72 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, thereby urging legs 26 and 28 back together, such that the inner edge linear portion 50 and 52 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, are moved into abutment, as shown in phantom in Fig. 9. The process is repeated as the artificial bait structure is drawn through the water. By combining the upward-downward fluttering movement of the legs 26 and 28 with continual lateral movement of legs 26 and 28 apart and together, artificial bait structure 10 simulates the movement of live bait and functions to effectively attract fish and agitate the fish into striking bait structure 10.

In addition to causing the continual lateral movement of legs 26 and 28, the cupping effect causes an increased amount of water to strike the bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of legs 26 and 28, respectively, in an upward direction. Due to the substantial surface area of bottom surfaces 62 and 64 of each leg 26 and 28, respectively, the water flowing past these surfaces 62 and 64 urges artificial bait structure 10 upward in the water. Such upward movement of the artificial bait structure 10 in the water discourages travel of fishing jig 10 near the bottom of the lake or river wherein hook 84 may become entangled in the weeds.

Various modes of carrying out the invention are contemplated as being in the scope of the following claims, particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter regarded as the invention.

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An artificial bait structure, comprising:
a head having a first forward end and a second, rearward end; and
first and second legs projecting rearwardly from the rearward end of the head,
each leg defined by a first inner edge and a second outer edge, and terminating at a
5 rearward end.
2. The artificial bait structure of claim 1, further comprising a rib extending
along an outer edge of each leg between the head and the rearward end of the leg.
3. The artificial bait structure of claim 1 wherein the head includes a first
generally planar upper surface and an opposite, second, generally planar bottom
surface.
4. The artificial bait structure of claim 3 wherein each leg has an upper
surface lying in a common plane with the upper surface of the head and an opposite,
generally planar bottom surface, and wherein the head has a thickness greater than
that of the legs such that the bottom surface of the head is located below the bottom
5 surfaces of the legs.
5. The artificial bait structure of claim 1 wherein each leg includes a generally
planar upper surface, and an opposite, generally planar bottom surface.
6. The artificial bait structure of claim 5 wherein the bottom surface of each
leg includes a plurality of nipples projecting downwardly therefrom.
7. The artificial bait structure of claim 6 wherein each nipple projecting from
the bottom surface of each leg lies in a row transverse to a longitudinal axis along
which the leg extends.
8. The artificial bait structure of claim 7 wherein each nipple is generally
cylindrical in shape.
9. The artificial bait structure of claim 3 wherein the upper surface of the head
includes a plurality of nipples projecting upwardly therefrom.
10. The artificial bait structure of claim 9 wherein each nipple projecting from
the upper surface of the head lies in a row transverse to a longitudinal axis along
which the artificial bait structure extends.
11. The artificial bait structure of claim 10 wherein each nipple projecting from
the upper surface of the head is generally cylindrical in shape.

12. The artificial bait structure of claim 5 wherein the upper surface of each leg includes a plurality of nipples projecting upwardly therefrom.

13. The artificial bait structure of claim 12 wherein each nipple projecting from the upper surface of each leg lies in a row transverse to a longitudinal axis along which the leg extends.

14. The artificial bait structure of claim 13 wherein each nipple projecting from the upper surface of each leg is generally cylindrical in shape.

15. The artificial bait structure of claim 6 wherein the head includes a first generally planar upper surface and an opposite, second, generally planar bottom surface, the upper surface of the head including a plurality of nipples projecting upwardly therefrom, and wherein the upper surface of each leg includes a plurality of nipples projecting upwardly therefrom.

16. The artificial bait structure of claim 4 wherein the bottom surface of each leg defines a shoulder adjacent the rearward end of the head.

17. The artificial bait structure of claim 1 wherein the inner edge of each leg includes a generally linear portion adjacent the rearward end of the leg, and a concave arcuate portion projecting toward the outer edge of the leg forwardly of the linear portion.

18. The artificial bait structure of claim 1 wherein the outer edge of each leg has a generally convex shape.

19. A fishing lure, comprising
a hook member having a generally straight shank extending along an axis, a tail section extending along a second axis, parallel to the axis of the shank, and a curved section interconnecting the shank and the tail section;

a head mounted on the hook member and having a first forward end and a second rearward end, the head including a first generally planar upper surface and an opposite, second, generally planar bottom surface, each surface lying in the plane parallel to the axis of the shank such that the first planar upper surface of the head is spaced from the tail section of the hook member; and

first and second legs projecting rearwardly from the rearward end of the head, each leg extending along an axis generally parallel to the axis of the shank member.

20. The fishing lure of claim 19 wherein each leg projecting rearwardly from the head is defined by a first inner edge and a second outer edge and terminates at a

rearward end, each leg further including generally planar upper surface, and a generally planar bottom surface.

21. The fishing lure of claim 20 further comprising a rib extending along an outer edge of each leg between the head and the rearward end of the leg.

22. The fishing lure of claim 19 further comprising a projection projecting rearwardly from the rearward end of each leg.

23. An artificial bait structure to be drawn through a body of water, comprising:
a head;

first and second legs projecting from the head, wherein the head and legs extend along a longitudinal axis; and

5 means projecting from each leg so as to cause lateral movement of each leg with respect to the longitudinal axis as the artificial bait structure is drawn through the body of water.

24. The artificial bait structure of claim 23 further comprising a means for facilitating movement of each leg in a direction transverse to the lateral movement of each leg as the artificial bait structure is drawn through the body of water.

25. The artificial bait structure of claim 23 wherein the head include a means for agitating the body of water as the artificial bait structure is drawn therethrough.

26. An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head defining a forward end of the artificial bait structure and having a thickness; and

5 a pair of legs extending rearwardly from the head, wherein the legs are configured such that each leg defines an outer edge located laterally outwardly relative to the head and such that the legs define facing inner edges, wherein the legs have a thickness less than that of the head.

27. The artificial bait structure of claim 26, wherein each leg defines a rib at its outer edge having a thickness greater than that of the leg inwardly of the rib.

28. The artificial bait structure of claim 27, wherein the leg inner edges define an arcuate opening located toward the head.



ARTIFICIAL BAIT STRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

An artificial bait structure is provided which simulates movement of live bait when drawn through a body of water, and which discourages entanglement in weeds at the bottom of a lake or river. The artificial bait structure includes a head having first and second legs projecting therefrom. The legs include a plurality of nipples which are engaged by the water as the artificial bait structure is drawn therethrough, causing the legs to flutter. A rib extends along the outer edge of each leg in order to cup the water as the artificial bait structure is drawn therethrough, thereby causing the

10 legs to repeatedly separate and come together.

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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PTO/SB/01 (8/96) DECLARATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing	Attorney Docket Number	623-00027
	First Named Inventor	William E. Chambers, Sr.
	COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
	Application Number	
	Filing Date	
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ARTIFICIAL BAIT STRUCTURE

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International Application

Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below, and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
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☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

Type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

DECLARATION

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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Eugene R. Sawall	17,431	Andrew S. McConnell	32,272
Daniel D. Fetterley	20,323	Peter C. Stomma	36,020
George H. Solveson	25,927	Edward R. Williams, Jr.	36,057
Gary A. Essmann	29,376	Mimi C. Goller	39,046
Thomas M. Wozny	28,922	William L. Falk	27,709
Michael E. Taken	28,120		

☐ Additional attorney(s) and/or agent(s) named on a supplemental sheet attached hereto.

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 Country United States Telephone (414) 271-7590 Fax (414) 271-5770

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name WILLIAM Middle Initial E. Family Name CHAMBERS Suffix e.g. Jr. SR.

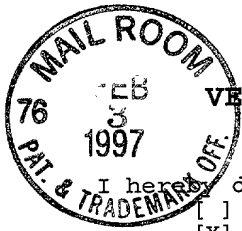
Inventor's Signature *William E. Chambers Sr.* Date 1-29-97

RESIDENCE: City Watkinsville State GA Country USA Citizenship USA

POST OFFICE ADDRESS 1431 Union Church Road

City Watkinsville State GA Zip 30677 Country USA

☐ Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am
☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on
behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN ZOOM BAIT COMPANY, INC.ADDRESS OF CONCERN 1581 Jennings Mill Road
Bogart, Georgia 30622

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled

ARTIFICIAL BAIT STRUCTUREby Inventor(s) William E. Chambers, Sr.
described in

☒ the specification filed herewith
☐ application no. _____, filed _____
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor(s), who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

*Note: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities.
(37 CFR 1.27)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

SIGNATURE William E. Chambers Sr. DATE 1-29-97NAME OF PERSON SIGNING William E. Chambers, Sr.TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER PresidentADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 1581 Jennings Mill Road
Bogart, Georgia 30622

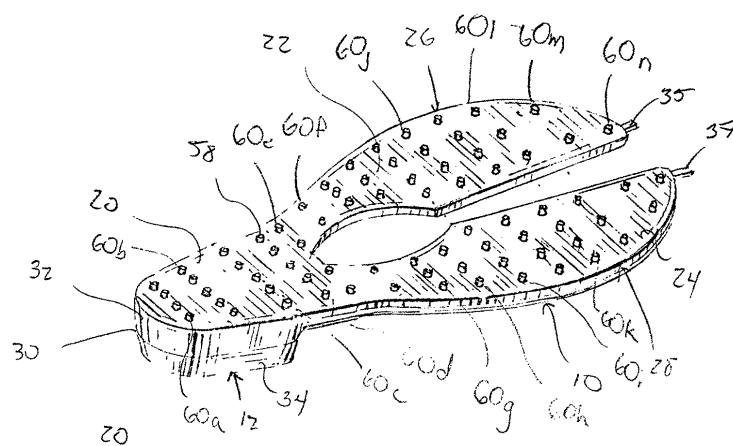


FIG. 1

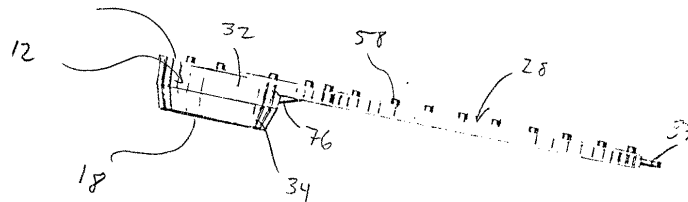


FIG. 2

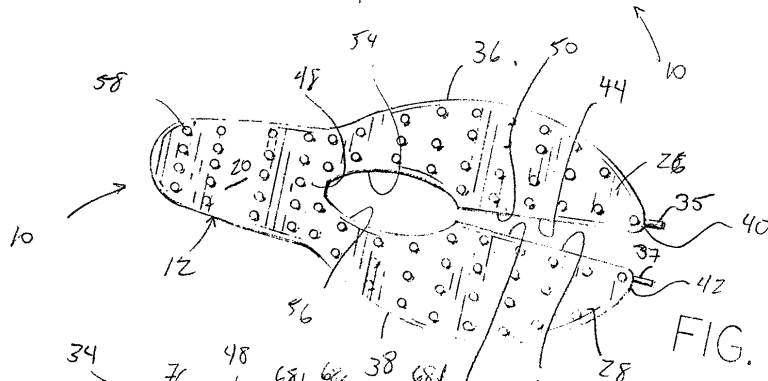


FIG. 3

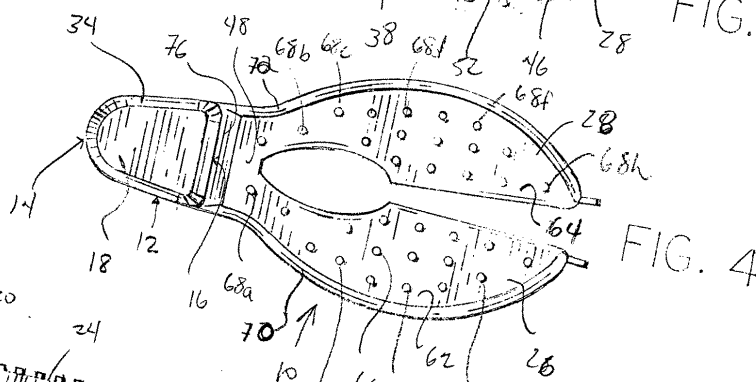


FIG. 4

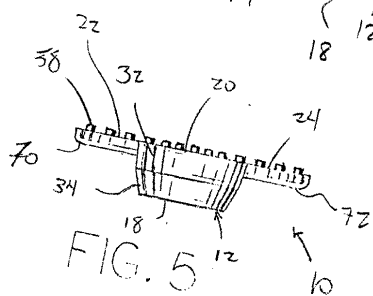


FIG. 5

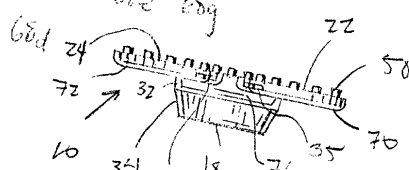


FIG. 6

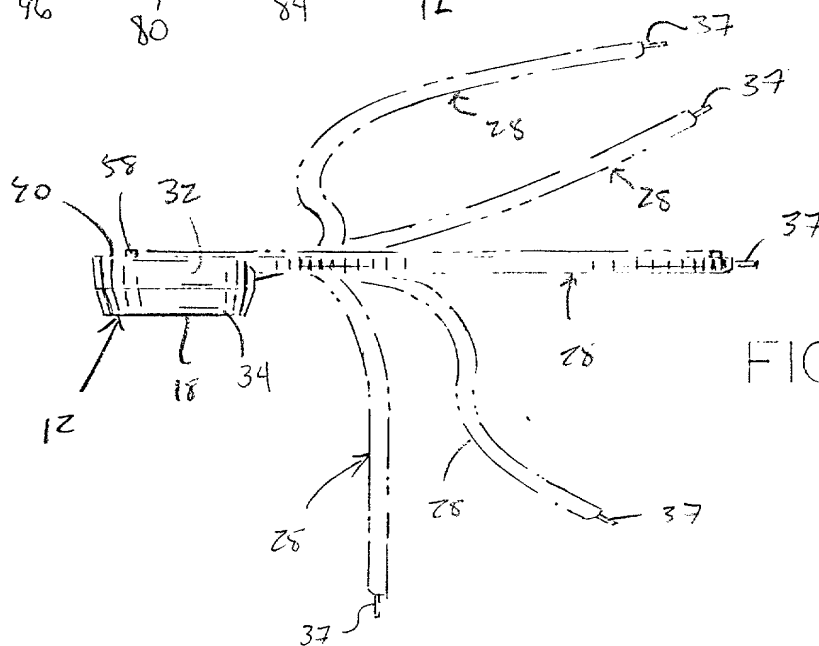


FIG. 9

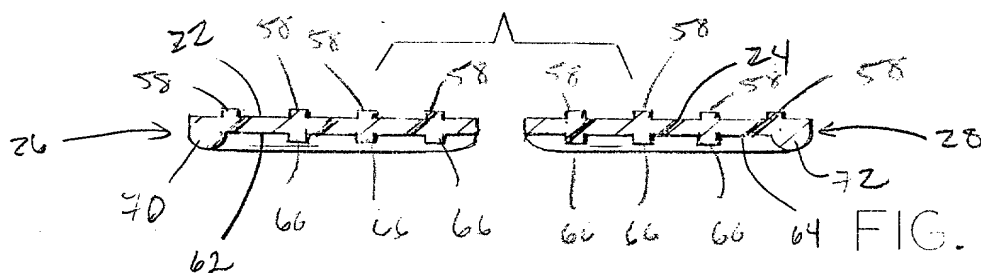
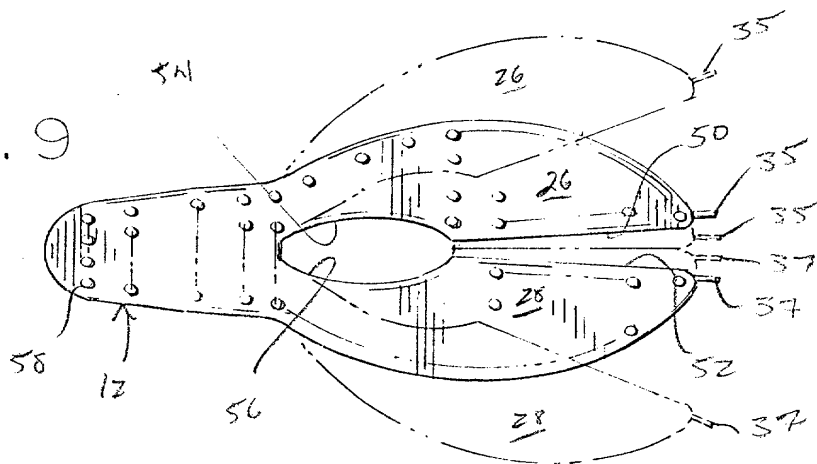


FIG. 10